

Part 1 – introducing The Sociological Perspective:

1. Chapter 1 Question: Now that you have read Chapter 1, A) Discuss together what do you believe is the unique perspective of sociology in comparison with other social sciences? B) What are some of the practical applications of viewing society through the lens of a sociologist? P2-4 Answer in complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling.

2. Chapter 2 Question: A. Describe some sociological research you would like to complete. B. Compare **three** different tools of sociological research; state which you would choose, justifying your choice. Answer in complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling in 100-150 words. P36-41

Part 2 – Individuals in Society

3. Chapter 3 Group Challenge: What are the main influences on you that make up your culture?: A) What are the dominant cultures that you each belong to? B) What subcultures do you each belong to? C) What impact do your dominant and subcultures have on each of you and on your life? D) What differences are there and what similarities are there between you? Answer in complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling. P64-67

4. Chapter 4 Question: Give an example of how you were socialized into your life as a child: who or what institution had most influence on your behavior? Describe a more recent experience of socialization into a different setting (high school, college, work, a relationship). What most influences your behavior now: your early experiences or your most recent experiences of socialization? Explain why you think this is. Answer in complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling in 100-150 words.

5. Ch 5 Group Challenge: Impression Management and dramaturgy, p118-121. Reread the section on impression management. A) What are your opinions of Erving Goffman's theory and further studies by Albas and Albas that show much of our interaction with others is a 'con game': an attempt to manipulate others' impressions of us and to play specific roles depending on the situation. B) Give an example of how you play different roles in your daily life. C) What do you believe are the implications of this theory in the study of society? Use correct grammar and spelling.

6. Ch 6 - Question: The function of groups. Read the 'Doing Sociological Research' section on p142 and 143. Do you agree that we are looking to small groups in modern society for emotional and spiritual support, and to find meaning and commitment in our lives? If you answer 'no', explain an alternative way in which you believe individuals achieve such support and meaning in their lives. Give examples that support or dispute the research. What impact do such small groups have on our larger society? What are both the positive and negative effects that such small groups can have on our larger society? Use what you have read about social institutions and groups in the text as you consider your answer. 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Sociological Research Activity 1: Crime Statistics. Read chapters 7 and 8 and analyze the statistics provided. In addition, find a newspaper or journal report that adds to the information in the text and the statistics provided about this topic. Then, either: 1) Write a report showing the relationship between crime and class in our society, explaining the links and giving suggestions for how to reduce crime in the context of class, **or** 2) Write a report about the impacts of imprisonment on individuals, addressing the negative and positive implications for society and giving some alternatives to imprisonment that you believe might be more effective. Follow the guidance given in the grading matrix for this assignment.

Part 3 - Social Inequality

7. Ch 9 Group Challenge: Distribution of wealth and income. Consider the information on wealth and income distribution given in this chapter, particularly on p 225-228. Why do you think that Americans believe in the "American Dream" of upward social mobility despite the statistics to the contrary? What role does the media play in our belief in this dream? Also review a media report that supports your findings and include information about it in your answer. Use correct grammar and spelling.

8. Ch 10 Question: The impact of the global economy on global stratification. Read the chapter and the *Sociology in Practice* section on p 247. Complete the critical thinking exercise in any store and with any goods you choose. What is your answer to the sweatshop economy and to our reliance on imports from other countries? Make sure you address how we could achieve more global equality as well as solve our own economic woes in your answer! 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Sociological Research Activity 2 – Discrimination. Take on the role of an investigative journalist and ‘expose’ one form of discrimination in the USA that you have come across either personally or that you have learned about through someone you know. Be as creative as you can, for instance you can interview someone about the discrimination they experienced and include parts of the interview in your report, or you can write a personal narrative of your own experience of discrimination. Describe the discrimination as objectively as you can and then use information, research and data from the text as well as **one other source**, such as a professional journal or a reputable news source to enhance what you have written about. Follow the format given in the Grading Matrix.

9 . Ch 13 Group Challenge: Image. Choose one of the photos from chapter 13 and each describe your reaction to it. Explain the picture and how it makes you feel. Finally, together, analyze your varying reactions: why do you each feel good or bad or happy or angry about this picture? What does it say about you, about your cultural influences and about our society? 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Group Sociological Research Activity 3 : Aging. Read the articles titled Economic Crisis and the Prospects for Elderly in Asia, p28-33 and Prime, p44-47 of the journal link http://www.aarpinternational.org/usr_doc/AARPTTheJournal_Summer09.pdf . In view of these two articles and of what you have read in the chapter on aging, state some of the problems of having an increasingly aging population, as well as some of the solutions you believe we should pursue in our society. Make sure you use both the text and the articles in your response, as well as your personal opinions, and examples from your own experience. Refer to the grading matrix for paper structure.

Part 4 - Social institutions

10. Ch 15 Group Challenge: Ideal families – Choose one of the three “debunking Society’s Myths” statements, (p403 or p406). A) Explain in more detail using resources provided, how research shows your chosen myth to be false. B) Why do you believe this myth persists (political, cultural bias etc.). How would you educate the public about this issue? Use correct grammar and spelling.

11. Ch 16 Question: Theories of education – argue in favor of either the functionalist or the conflict theory of education, using the text and personal experiences as well as your observations to support your argument. If you are struggling to wholeheartedly support one theory, then you may pick the parts of each theory you support in your argument. 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

12. Ch 17 Group Challenge: Religion in the USA. Read the chapter on religion and its impact on society. Why do you believe there has been a rise in religious conservatism in the USA in recent years, p 469-70. Find a recent news article (paper, online or TV) that illustrates the current activity of this movement and refer to it in your answer. Hint: look for articles that discuss opposition movements to the current government.

Ch 18 Question: Worker Alienation - this is a concept related to the conflict perspective of work. A) Describe how you or someone you know has felt alienated in a work setting. B) What were the causes and what were the symptoms and the results of this alienation. C) How does this relate to the text? D) How can employers prevent alienation at work and what responsibility do employees have in preventing alienation? 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Group Sociological Research Activity 4 Health Care. Read Chapter 20 and then study Map 20.1 p 538, Figure 20.5 p553 and reread p553- 556. In addition, find some recent news on the health care debate and the current government's attempt to make changes to it. Write a report on why the health care system in the USA needs reforming based on what you have read in the text and in the news, and include your ideas for improving it, justifying your ideas with statistics and facts about health care in the USA. *Hint:* it will help to look at systems in other countries to assist with your report. Follow the instructions in the Grading Matrix under Project Details.

Part 5 – Social Change

Ch 21 Question: life expectancy and infant mortality: After reading ch 21, study Table 21.1, p564 and read the Debunking Society's Myth's p565. What is your reaction to both in relation to statistics for the USA? Why is infant mortality so high in the USA and why, bearing in mind the amount of money we spend on health care, is the life expectancy lower than many other industrialized countries? What, in your opinion, are the solutions? 100-150 words. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Session 14

Final Thoughts

Describe your final thoughts on this class:

1. What did you like about the class?
2. Were there any areas that were difficult for you to follow?
3. Which assignments were most helpful in your learning?
4. What suggestions do you have for improving the class? Give specific examples.

Please be honest and civil:O) 75 – 150 words. Correct grammar and spelling.

Sociological Research Activity 5 Social Change. Explore the web links given for this assignment. Choose a social movement, social change or volunteer organization that inspires you and write a report about their mission, vision and goals and why they appeal to you. What social issues do they address? Finally, persuade your reader/listener of the relevance of this movement in today's society and about the importance of getting involved in your chosen organization as an effective way to address a social issue. Remember to follow the Grading Matrix instructions.